

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 /113 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS-MR.FUNSETH (INFO)
H-MISS FOLGER (INFO)
IO/P-MR.BLACHLY
EUR/P-MR.JERABEK
NEA/ARN-MR.KORN
AF/P-MRS.RUSSELL

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R 232036Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USCINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 22, 197:

QUOTE: Q. THERE'S A REPORT TODAY OF THE SULTAN OF OMAN
DENYING THAT THERE IS ANY UNDERSTANDING UNDER WAY FOR USE OF
AN AIR BASE BY THE UNITED STATES. NOW, HE SAYS UNDERSTAND-
ING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OMAN, AND, OF COURSE, YOU
DIDN'T REFER TO AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND OMAN, YOU SPOKE OF US TALKING TO THE BRITISH. IN ANY
EVENT, WITH THAT IN MIND, CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE. IS
THAT ACCOUNT WRONG? AND HOW ARE THESE CONVERSATIONS GOING?

A. I CAN'T SAY MUCH MORE THAN I SAID YESTERDAY. THERE ARE
DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE OMAN GOVERNMENT AND
WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. NOW, AS FAR AS I AM AWARE NO
UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED. IT IS A SUBJECT UNDER DIS-
CUSSION. AND I THINK IT'S AT THAT STAGE EVEN AS OF TODAY.

Q. ISN'T IT A FACT, THOUGH, THAT THE SECRETARY IS ALSO

CONTEMPLATING A MIDDLE EAST VENTURE AND THAT THAT COULD
BLOW THE LATIN AMERICAN TRIP OUT OF THE WATER AT THIS
STAGE?

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A. THE SECRETARY, AS WE SAID YOU KNOW -- HE ANNOUNCED
TWO DAYS AGO I THINK, THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO THE MIDDLE
EAST IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. AND HERE AGAIN HE HASN'T
TIED THE DATES ON THAT TRIP DOWN. SO OBVIOUSLY THERE WILL
HAVE TO BE, IF THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP OCCURS AROUND THE
TIME OF THE PROJECTED LATING AMERICAN TRIP, OBVIOUSLY THE
DATES WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT TO THE SATISFACTION OF

ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

Q. DOES ONE TRIP DEPEND ON THE OTHER THOUGH?

A. IN WHAT SENSE DO YOU MEAN?

Q. WELL, IF HE GOES TO THE MIDDLE EAST, DOES THAT MAKE HIS GOING TO LATIN AMERICA LESS DEFINITE?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE DEFINITELY PLANS TO VISIT LATIN AMERICA. I DON'T THINK IT'S A QUESTION IF HE MAKES THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP THAT THEN HE WOULD BE LESS DEFINITE ABOUT GOING TO LATIN AMERICA IN FEBRUARY.

Q. AL AHRAM SAID KISSINGER WOULD ARRIVE IN CAIRO ON FEBRUARY 6 OR 7, AND THAT WOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF HIS MIDEAST TOUR.

A. I WAS ASKED THIS YESTERDAY ON THE SAME REPORT, AND I JUST HONESTLY HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY OTHER THAN WHAT I REPEATED TODAY AND MANY OTHER DAYS ON THE DEFINITE DATES FOR HIS TRIP AND WHEN HE WILL BE GOING.

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US THE WORKING DATES -- THE TENTATIVE DATES THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING THE TRIP FOR UPSTAIRS.

A. NO, I CAN'T BECAUSE THERE ARE NO TENTATIVE DATES. I HAD A REPORT ON SATURDAY, I THINK IT WAS, THAT MOST OF THE NEA BUREAU WAS IN WORKING ON THE TRIP AND TENTATIVE DATES, WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE AT ALL.

Q. ISRAEL HAS INVITED THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT. HE HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE.
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A. RIGHT.

Q. HAVE ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST INVITED THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT?

A. I COMMENTED ON THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO IT.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN A REPLY FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO ALLON'S LATEST PROPOSALS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. FRANKLY, IN THIS CASE, I JUST GO BACK TO THE QUIET DIPLOMACY THING WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

Q. I DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE REPLY, I WANT TO KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN ONE.

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. YOU SAID YESTERDAY YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER COMBAT AIRCRAFT WOULD BE LANDING AT MASIRA, IF THIS REQUEST IS GRANTED. DO YOU KNOW TODAY WHETHER COMBAT AIRCRAFT ARE INCLUDED IN THAT REQUEST?

A. ON THIS QUESTION, I HAVE CHECKED WITH DEFENSE, AND THEY HAVE TOLD ME, OR SUGGESTED, THAT I REFER ANY QUESTIONS ON THE NATURE OF THE AIRCRAFT, ET CETERA, TO THEM. I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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